

April 3, 2004



Dr. Jeffrey P. Koenings,  
Director, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Natural Resources Building  
1111 Washington St. SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Dr. Koenings,

Five Bend Golf & Country Club directors and three members were in the Portland, OR area last week to play several rounds of golf. One of our directors, Jay Bennett, has a cabin on the Kalama River which we used as our home base for those three days. Jay contacted Chris Wagemann, a WDF&W biologist with the Kalama River Station, to see if Chris would give our group a presentation on his project. Chris gladly agreed and we met him late Thursday afternoon at the Upper Hatchery on the river.

Only one of us is a fisherman, which clearly didn't matter to Chris as he explained his project, described in detail the heritage of Kalama steelhead, the project's objectives and goals. At one point, Chris pulled on his waders and for fifteen very exciting minutes, showed us all very large steelhead, described the difference between native and hatchery fish, and delighted us all with his anecdotes and stories. Eventually, we had to leave, but not until we saw the entire Upper Hatchery operations and processes, including the barrier, the holding ponds, and the processes to raise fingerlings from fertilized eggs.

You and your department should be extremely proud of Chris. None of us could recall being briefed by a person with such passion for their job. Please pass along to him our sincere appreciation for taking his personal time to enlighten us. We were impressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent L. Franklin'.

Kent L. Franklin  
President